

Now, they had donated some of her sister's tissue to science, and two significant companies, Columbia University, and Dr. Neil Schneider began doing DNA work on that preparing a treatment for Jaci. This treatment wasn't available for Jaci soon enough in her view, her family's view, or in my view. The FDA had to work through their regulations. As we worked through that, it looked like Jaci couldn't get this potentially miraculous treatment before perhaps September or October. At the rate of the digression of her condition, it didn't look like she was going to be with us long enough to receive the treatment.

Some of us went to work to step up and help Jaci. I got involved on April 13 of this year when my wonderful district staff person, Andrea Easter, who had been working with the family all along, brought me up and we did a fundraiser there at the Spencer AG Center on April 13, a Saturday.

It was a cold and chilly day when we arrived there. There were pickups parked on either side of the road to the Spencer AG Center. It looked like we were going to a farm sale there were so many vehicles there.

They had only expected maybe 100 people, and the Clay County Cattlemen were there to flip maybe 100 burgers and put out a basket for people to put a check in. They thought they could raise \$3,000 to \$5,000 just as a token, as a way to help.

The story about that day is, it turned out that there were over 1,000 people who came. And they raised in the end, the last report I got, was over \$200,000.

I sat with Jaci that day and talked about her dreams to build a riding arena and train horses for therapy for others and to be able to help people.

She is a cowgirl, Mr. Speaker. I committed that I will come up and grade that arena on the house, and I will be on the machine to do it. I look forward to that day.

But we had more work to do. So that story that day got us all energized. We kept her in our prayers every day. By May 2 we had a meeting with Dr. Woodcock and the FDA.

We moved along even further. By May 20 I introduced a private bill. I tried to convince my Senators to do the same. They thought there would be an objection to a UC in the Senate.

I brought this to Speaker PELOSI. She was terrific to work with. We had several meetings all together, with STENY HOYER and with her staff. Before that bill could come to the floor for a unanimous consent request, the FDA opened the door and Jaci went wheels up January 5 to go to Columbia.

She received her first treatment on June 11, and today, starting 5 minutes from now, Mr. Speaker, she will receive her second treatment. There has been no noticeable digression in her condition. I am hopeful and prayerful that it will improve. We have a chance here at a miracle.

So many people worked so well together to get this done, including the

press people around the Spencer, Iowa, area. I want to especially mention Stella "With the Good Heart" Daskalakis. I always call her Stella "With the Good Heart." She has done so much, along with KICD Radio, KTIV, KUOO, and KSFY in Sioux Falls.

Mr. Speaker, I am so grateful for everyone who has formed a link in this chain of miracles. We are on our way to an extraordinary miracle. We will keep Jaci in our prayers this day as she receives her second treatment for ALS.

#### PEACE CORPS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the Peace Corps Reauthorization Act of 2019.

I want to thank my returned Peace Corps volunteers; JOE KENNEDY and DONNA SHALALA, the co-chairs of the Peace Corps Caucus; as well as Mr. GRAVES, Mr. SIRES, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, and Ms. SHALALA for their support as original cosponsors.

Like successive generations of young Americans, my wife, Patti, and I answered President John F. Kennedy's call and served in the Peace Corps in Ethiopia from 1966 to 1968. This foundational experience inspired our lifetime of service that continued into State government in California, the Clinton administration, and now the United States Congress.

Since the establishment of the Peace Corps in 1961, more than 230,000 Americans have volunteered and have served in 141 countries around the world. When the Africans fought for their independence, the Peace Corps volunteers came, and they were there to assist in the transition in countries throughout that continent. They were there as teachers, community development, and agriculture, and so that tradition carried on in countries all around the world. Today there are some 8,000 Peace Corps volunteers in 65 countries.

Now more than ever, Congress should and must support the Peace Corps mission and realize President Kennedy's vision of generations of young Americans, ready to serve their Nation and make the world a better place and return home to America and continue to educate all Americans about what is going on around the world.

Our Peace Corps Reauthorization Act of 2019 would do just this by providing additional Federal resources to better support current, returning, and former Peace Corps volunteers by doing the following: First, since 2002 the Peace Corps has not been reauthorized. So we would pick up that and make the Peace Corps reauthorization good for the next 5 years. We would authorize \$450 million per fiscal year for the Peace Corps, an increase over the flat \$410 million that has been provided in the current year.

We would also direct the Peace Corps to establish new volunteer opportunities that promote internet adoption and development in countries and engage tech savvy American volunteers.

We would increase the monthly allowance for Peace Corps volunteers and leaders to \$417 per month of service completed to reflect the increase in the cost of living and provide \$10,000 for the 2-year full term of service.

We would reform the Peace Corps National Advisory Council that has been in abeyance since 1980 by providing that donated funds from a qualified nonprofit organization would cover all administrative costs for the advisory council with no cost to the taxpayers.

We would include Respect for Peace Corps Volunteers Act, H.R. 1411, sponsored by Congressman SIRES of New Jersey since 2013, allowing use of the Peace Corps logo in headstones and other funeral materials, in recognition of the meaning the deceased's Peace Corps service had for their lives.

We would codify President Kennedy's 1963 executive order affording returned Peace Corps volunteers a 12-month hiring preference for most Federal job openings and also deal with the shutdowns that occasionally occur.

□ 1030

We would require the Peace Corps and the U.S. State Department Bureau of Diplomatic Security to routinely update existing memorandums of agreement for Peace Corps volunteer security and consular protection in foreign countries.

We would clarify that American Samoans and other U.S. nationals have an opportunity to serve in the Peace Corps as volunteers as well as in leadership positions.

We would also increase the workers' compensation rate for Peace Corps volunteers.

This bipartisan bill builds upon the success of the Sam Farr and Nick Castle Peace Corps Reform Act of 2018, public law 115-256, sponsored by former Congressman Ted Poe of Texas.

Our bill also builds upon legislation sponsored by my California colleague Sam Farr, who served in the Peace Corps from 1964 to 1966.

As co-chairman of the Peace Corps Caucus, I am proud to continue the work in support of the Peace Corps mission, its volunteers, and the indelible impact of their service.

I ask all Members of Congress to cosponsor this legislation and support it. It is important, and I look forward to working with the Foreign Affairs Committee, Chairman ENGEL, and Ranking Member MCCAUL to advance the Peace Corps Reauthorization Act.

#### RECOGNIZING RABBI DR. STEVEN MOSS OF B'NAI ISRAEL REFORM TEMPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN) for 5 minutes.